mother and fœtus, and the manner in which that connection is effected through the placenta. The entire subject, as presented in the work before us, is well deserving of a close and candid study. In the views advanced by the author there is not a little semblance of truth. They are plausible, to say the least of them, and while they explain sufficiently well important points in the physiology of fœtal life they run counter to no well established anatomical fact or physiological law.

That any shock imparted to the nervous system of the mother may affect injuriously the fœtus, we believe to be a truth well established, but that the nervous connection which exists between the mother and fœtus can, under any circumstance, become the medium by which the development of the latter can be so modified as to bring it in conformity with certain objects that have happened to strike forcibly the mind of the mother or to daguerreotype upon the skin of the fœtus forms transmitted to it from the optic nerve of the mother we are not prepared to admit, inasmuch as we have met with no fact which gives to such a supposition even the remotest semblance of truth. D. F. C.

ART. XXIV.—*An Introduction to Practical Chemistry, including Analysis.* By JOHN E. BOWMAN, late Professor of Practical Chemistry in King's College, London. Edited by CHARLES L. BLOXAM. Third American from the fourth English edition. 12mo. pp. 333. Blanchard & Lea, 1864.

THE above work, originally intended to supply a deficiency in elementary practical instruction, has, by the successive editions, become so well known to our chemical public, that any notice beyond the fact of the appearance of a new and revised form would be unnecessary, were it not that in consequence of the decease of the talented author the supervision of the work has devolved upon his successor in the London School of Practical Chemistry, Charles L. Bloxam. This gentleman is favourably known to us as the author of a very acceptable work on inorganic chemistry, and in the present case has fully sustained his previous impression, by the judicious alterations and additions he has made to the *Practical Chemistry* of Professor Bowman.

The most extensive and important alterations to be noticed are those made in part third, chapter one, treating of the qualitative analysis of substances of unknown composition. The directions for the mode in which the student should proceed in his examination is laid down in accordance with strict method and in compliance with the lessons of experience, examining and noting carefully first the physical then the chemical characters. In the form of typography adopted in this edition the eye is at once caught by the circumstances to be specially noted and the conclusions to be drawn therefrom; the former being indicated by broad faced type, and the latter by italics. The whole of this section has been rewritten and rearranged, still commencing with the more simple cases in which one metallic and one non-metallic element is present, and thence passing to the more complicated examples afforded by the higher branches of analysis. The alterations and additions in other parts are of a minor character, but may be considered as affording additional means and information to the student, and as facilitating his researches in special subjects. Thus, in the preparation of gases a convenient method is given for drying; in the purification of reagents the most usual impurities are noticed, and directions given for their amendment; new methods of investigation are introduced, as Fresenius' and Babo's, for arsenic; the volumetric estimation of sesqui-compounds of iron by solution of permanganate of potassa, and the proper means of detecting the principal organic alkalies. In the examples given for the student, to enable himself to acquire confidence and improvement by practice, there have been added some which are well calculated to effect this object, by the care and attention involved in the discrimination of the import of the results, and consequently of great practical utility.

The size of the work has been enlarged by these alterations nearly fifty pages over the former edition, and evinces the usual neatness and correctness of previous publications, with the exception of a single instance (easily corrected) of malposition of an illustration, Fig. 19, which has been turned a quarter of a circle from its proper position. R. B.

ART. XXV.—*On Human Entozoa: Comprising the Description of the Different Species of Worms found in the Intestines and other Parts of the Human Body, and the Pathology and Treatment of the various Affections produced by their Presence.* By WM. ABBOTTS SMITH, M. D. 8vo. pp. 251. London, 1863.

THE above is the title of a work recently from the London press which, though not so elaborate a treatise as the excellent manual of Küchenmeister, translated and published by the Sydenham Society, yet is perhaps better adapted for the general practitioner, so far as it goes. Dr. Smith treats in his volume of the human entozoa alone, while the work of Küchenmeister includes an account of the epizoa and the vegetable parasites. Dr. S. gives a concise and accurate account of our knowledge to the present day, together with the best known method of treatment, and his work may be perused with advantage by the physician and medical student. J. L.

ART. XXVI.—*British Pharmacopœia, published under the direction of the General Council of Medical Education and Registration of the United Kingdom pursuant to the Medical Act*, 1858. London: Printed for the General Medical Council, 1864. 8vo. pp. 444.

WE have neither the leisure nor the space, at this time, to examine into the merits of this work; but it has been so long and anxiously looked for that it appears incumbent upon us to at least announce its appearance. "To supersede three Pharmacopœias, each of them long held in great repute—to reconcile the varying usages, in pharmacy and prescriptions, of the people of three countries hitherto in these respects separate and independent—to consult the prepossessions of three important professional bodies, which have ruled long and ably over this branch of medicine, to represent accurately, yet with caution, the advancement made in chemistry and pharmacy during the thirteen years which have elapsed since the last edition of any of the Pharmacopœias of the Colleges of Physicians was published," the council state "has been no light task."

The work consists of two parts and an appendix. The first part consists of the materia medica; the second of the preparations and compounds; and the appendix of articles which are employed for the chemical processes in the second part, but are not themselves used in medical practice, and of preparations solely intended for the chemical examination of articles contained in the first and second parts.

Five years were occupied in the preparation of this work, and the cost of it is said to have exceeded thirty thousand dollars. Whether or not the result justifies this expenditure of time and money we may at some future period consider; but in the mean time we may state that the work does not seem to have been received with general favor in Great Britain. In an editorial in the *Lancet* (Feb. 27, 1864) it is stated that "although the Pharmacopœia bears ample evidence of the great ability, large therapeutic information, and great chemical skill which distinguish its able authors, yet it is disfigured by practical mistakes." And Prof. Redwood, in a lecture delivered before the members of the Pharmaceu-